1868

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# PINE BARREN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

# BETHSAIDA CHURCH,

WILCOX COUNTY, ALA.,

On the 19th, 20th, and 21st of September, 1868.

MONROEVILLE, ALA.

"JOURNAL OFFICE," PRINT

1868.

BRARY, BOSTON MEDICAL SOCIETY

# MINUTES.

The Pine Barren Baptist Association held her Nineteenth Annual Session with the Bethsaida Baptist Church, Wilcox County, Alabama, September 19th, 1868.

The Annual Sermon was preached by Elder J. C. Jones, from 1st John, 2nd chapter and 12th verse.

After recess of one hour the Association was called to order by Elder C. W. Hare, the Clerk of last Session, (the former Moderator being absent) and on motion, Brother R. H. Ervin, was appointed Moderator, pro. tem. After singing, and prayer by Brother C. F. Sturgis, the Letters from the Churches were read and the Messengers' names enrolled, viz.

First District.—New Providence,-J. T. Bayles.

Gravel Creek—Letter.

Rock West—J. Wilmer, R. H. Irvin, David Cook, J. E. Gullett, Sr., J. E. Gullett, Jr.

Camden—C. F. Sturgis, C. E. Brame.

Bethany—J. J. Hawthorne, A. T. Felts.

Second District—County Line—Letter.

Ackerville—J. C. Jones, G. W. Albritton, T. H. Jones, B. K. Skinner.

Bethsaida—J. H. Purifoy, W. M. Watson, Jas. Taylor, H. M. Lee, Jno McWhorter, J. Purifoy, J. T. Albritton.

Bear Creek—Letter.

Enon—R. A. Burson, N. B. Shaw.

Union—M. L. McWilliams.

Third District.—Gilgal—S. T. Glenn, J. F. Bruner.

Fellowship—J. B. Scott, A. J. Caldwell, Robt. Scott.

Friendship—J. R. Hawthorne, H. J. Jones, N. Wright.

Bethlehem—Jesse Hays, H. Creamer.

Manningham—James Dewberry, J. F. Butts.

Ebenezer—S. Moore, Jr., T. Sims.

Mount Pleasant—J. L. Eddins, B. N. Sills.

Fourth District.—Indian Springs—B. K. Fort.

Flat Creek—Letter.

Pineville—C. W. Hare, H. E. Davidson, D. Crosby, Daniel Robbins, J. B. Colly, Jr.

Concord—P. J. Cree, H. H. Sturgis, G. W. Riley, J. W. Perrin, A. Lacy, A. Jenkins, P. C. Riley,

New Hope—Letter.

Bethel—Drury Massey.

2. Proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted in the election of Brother R. H. Irvin, Moderator, and in the election of Elder C. W. Hare, Clerk, and Brother J. E. Gullett, Sr., Treasurer.

3. Appointed the Pastor and Deacons of Bethsaida Church, with H. E. Davidson and J. K. Hawthorne, a Committee on Religious Services during the Session.

4. Received correspondence from Alabama Association, Elder B. H. Crumpton and Brother F. Lee.

5. Appointed Committees to report during the Session, viz:

State of Religion and Digest of Letters.

J. T. Bayles, D. Massey, and J. W. Perrin.

Quries and Requests.

J. C. Jones. D. Crosby, and B. R. Skinner.

Correspondence.

C. E. Brame, M. L. McWilliams, and T. H. Jones.

Finance.

J. B. Scott, J. H. Purifoy, and W. M. Watson.

Nominations.

G. W. Riley, G. W Albritton, and D. Robbins.

Heard Reports of Committees appointed last year, viz:

On Missions—Laid on the table until Monday at 10 o'clock, A. M.

On Sabbath Schools—Laid on the table until Monday at 11 o'clock, A. M.

On Ministerial and Denominational Education—Adopted, (See Appendix C.)

The Committee on Preaching, reported Brother M. L. McWilliams, to preach to-night; C. F. Sturgis to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M.; J. T. Bruner, to close. C. W. Hare, to-morrow at 2 P. M., H. H. Sturgis, to close.—C. E. Brame, to-morrow at night, J. T. Bayles, to close.

To the Blacks—J. T. Bayles, 11 A. M., J. C. Jones, to close; P. J. Cree, at 2 P. M., J. L. Eddins, to close.

Adjourned with religious services by Brother McWilliams, until Monday morning at half-past 8 o'clock.

Lord's Day—The services of the day opened with a prayer meeting, after which the Brethren occupied the

stand according to previous appointment. At the close of the morning sermon, a collection was taken up for our Home Mission, amounting to $18 25. The congregations large and attentive.

Monday Morning—The Association was opened with religious service, by Brother Bayles. Minutes read and approved, and roll corrected. Report of the Board of Managers concurred in and its Resolutions adopted—(See appendix A.) In accordance with the last resolution, the following amounts were pledged to aid in ministerial education: Rock West, $50 00; T. J. Jones, $10 00; G W Albritton, $25 00; S T Glenn, $5 00; H E Davidson, $10 00; J W Perrin, $10 00; G W Riley, $15 00.

Report on Missions—Laid on the table.

Report on Sabbath Schools—Adopted, (See app'x B.)

Report on Religious Instruction of the Colored People, adopted, (See appendix D.)

On motion the above named Committee be stricken from the roll of committees. Elected a Board of Managers, viz: First District, J E Gullett, Sr., J J Hawthorne. Second District, G W Albritton. Third District, Nathan Wright. Fourth District, C W Hare.

Report on State of Religion, &c, &c; adopted, (See appendix E)

Report on Correspondence, received and Committee discharged.

Report on Queries and Requests, received and Committe discharged.

Report on Nominations, C F Sturgis, to preach the next annual sermon, C W Hare, Alternate.

Report of Missionary, adopted, (See appendix F.)

On motion, we appoint no Missionary this year.

Appointed the next meeting of this body with the Fellowship Church, Wilcox County, Alabama, at the usual time.

Report on Finance, adopted, (See appendix G)

Ordered that the Clerk superintend the printing and distributing the Minutes, and that he receive for his services what may be left after printing the minutes.

Report of the Treasurer, adopted, (See appendix H)

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the members of Bethsaida Church and community for their kindnes and hospitality during our session.

Appointed the following Committees to report next session:

Missions—C W Hare, D Crosby, A Lacy.

Sabbath Schools — C E Brame, M L McWilliams, G W Albritton.

Ministerial and Denominational Education—C F Sturgis, J H Purifoy, J E Gullett, Sr.

Prayer was offered by Brother Cree, a hymn was sung, the parting hand extended and the Association adjourned a delightful and harmonious Session, to meet with the Fellowship Church, Wilcox County, Alabama, Saturday before the third Sabbath in September, 1869, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

R. H. ERVIN, Modertor.

C. W. HARE, Clerk.

Table of Correspondence—To the Alabama Association, G W Albritton, J C Jones. To the Bethlehem Association—C W Hare, P J Cree, H E Davidson, J T Bayles, M L McWilliams, J C Jones, D Massey, J W Perrin.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.—(H.)

J. E. GULLETT, Treasurer, in account with the Pine Barren Association. DR.

| | |
|---|---|
| To amount received from Finance Committee for Domestic Mission..... | $307 65 |
| To amount received from Finance Committee for Minutes..... | 58 25 |
| | 365.90 |

CR.

| | |
|---|---|
| By amount paid Brother Jones as Missionary... | $307 65 |
| By amount paid Brother Hare for Minutes..... | 58 25 |
| | 365 90. |

| CHURCHES. | PASTORS. | POST OFFICE | CLERKS. |
|---|---|---|---|
| FIRST DISTRICT. | | | |
| New Providence, | J T Bayles.... | Camden..... | Isham Moore. |
| Gravel Creek,.. | J T Bayles.... | Camden..... | W G Johnson |
| Rock West,.... | C F Sturgis.... | Camden.. .... | J F Gullett.. |
| Bethany,..... | C E Brame.... | Camden..... | J J Hawthorn |
| Camden..... | C F Sturgis.... | Camden..... | F P M Gilber |
| Canton..... | Not Represented | | |
| SECONE DISTRICT. | | | |
| County Line*... | Missionary..... | | |
| Ackerville ..... | B H Crumpton. | Carlowville .... | G W Albritto |
| Bethsaida..... | B H Crumpton. | Snow Hill..... | J H Purifoy.. |
| Bear Creek..... | P J Cree..... | Allenton..... | J E Fore..... |
| Enon..... .... | L W Lindsey | Fatama..... | J F Burson... |
| Union ..... | M L M'Williams | Allenton..... | J W Woodson |
| Allenton..... | Not Represented | | |
| THIRD DISTRICT. | | | |
| Gilgal†..... | J F Bruner.... | Monterey..... | P M Little.... |
| Fellowship..... | J E Bell..... | Monterey..... | Robt Scott.... |
| Friendship. .... | J E Bell..... | Pine Apple.... | Jere Keyser.. |
| Bethlehem..... | J C Jones..... | Butler Springs... | Jesse Hays.... |
| Manningham.... | J F Bruner..... | Butler Springs.. | N L Stuckey.... |
| Ebenezer‡..... | J F Bruner..... | Butler Springs.. | S Moore, Jr... |
| Mount Pleasant§ | M L M'Williams | Pine Apple..... | W E Coleman |
| FOURTH DISTRICT. | | | |
| Indian Springs. | M L M'Williams | Newtown Acad'y | B K Fort..... |
| Flat Creek..... | L W Lindsey... | NewtownAcad'y | A Marshall.... |
| Pineville..... | C F Sturgis.... | NewtownAcad'y | J M Davidson. |
| New Hope..... | P J Cree..... | NewtownAcad'y | T J Robbins... |
| Bethel..... | J McWilliams.. | Bell's Landing.. | S R Thompson |
| Bell's Landing.. | Not Represented | | |
| Concord..... | L W Lindsey... | Buena Vista.... | L H Duke.... |
| Total..... | | | |

☞*Licened 3 (colored), and ordained 3 ministers. †Ordai
in the Letter. §Ordained J. L. Eddins to the Ministry.

| Baptised. | Received by Letter. | Restored. | Dismissed by Letter. | Excluded. | Dead. | Number of Whites. | Number of Blacks. | Total. | Sabbath Meetings. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 23 | 21 | 44 | 1st. |
| 13 | 3 | 1 | .... | 1 | 2 | 38 | 39 | 77 | 3d. |
| 10 | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | 53 | 144 | 197 | 2d. |
| 7 | 4 | .... | 1 | 6 | .... | 28 | 10 | 38 | 2d. |
| .... | 1 | .... | 3 | .... | 1 | 38 | 70 | 108 | 4th. |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| 66 | .... | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 445 | 445 | .... |
| 6 | 1 | .... | 6 | 2 | 1 | 73 | 41 | 114 | 2&4. |
| .... | 4 | .... | 5 | 5 | .... | 93 | 34 | 127 | 3d. |
| 9 | 5 | ... | 5 | 11 | 5 | 42 | 4 | 46 | 1st, |
| .... | 2 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 4 | 40 | 9 | 49 | 2d. |
| 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 13 | .... | 13 | 3d, |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| 10 | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 52 | 20 | 72 | 4th |
| .... | 1 | .... | 6 | .... | .... | 59 | 44 | 103 | 4th |
| 31 | 6 | .... | 8 | .... | .... | 134 | 141 | 275 | 3d. |
| 17 | 10 | 2 | 2 | .... | 2 | 57 | .... | 57 | 1st |
| 12 | 3 | 2 | 1 | .... | 4 | 32 | 3 | 35 | 2d. |
| 19 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| 11 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 1 | 57 | 8 | 65 | 1st |
| .... | .... | .... | 2 | 1 | .... | 19 | 10 | 29 | 2d. |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3d. |
| 81 | 1 | .... | 3 | .... | 2 | 62 | 197 | 259 | 1st |
| .... | 1 | .... | 4 | .... | 2 | 10 | 16 | 26 | 3d. |
| 4 | 1 | .... | 7 | 1 | .... | 49 | 3 | 52 | 2d. |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| 42 | 6 | .... | 4 | 8 | 3 | 144 | 36 | 180 | 4th |
| .... 340 | 62 | 13 | 70 | 69 | 27 | 1116 | 1295 | 2411 | |

J. F. Bruner to the Ministry. ‡Number of members not put down

# APPENDIX.

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.—(A.)

Your Board held its session in November with the Concord Church, and again in May with the Enon Church. We have received from the delinquent Churches for last year the following amounts, viz.: Concord, $32 25: Fellowship, $7 25; C. Mims, $10 00, making a total of $49 50, still leaving a balance of $72 30 unpaid of last year. Which amount Brother Jones releases the Association from further liability; but holds the parties responsible to him for the payment. And we would urge said parties the necessity of making a speedy arrangement to settle with him, as he has done the work and needs the money. We would also state, we have had a settlement with Brother Jones, and find, after deducting for lost time, we are due him, for his services the present year, $450. For further particulars in relation to mission field, we refer you to the report of the Missionary. . .

According to instructions given at the last session of this body, the Board have made inquiries in regard to brethren who may be looking forward to the Ministry; and it is with emotions of gratitude that we have not language to express, (whilst our aged Ministers are, one by one called to their rest, or through age and infirmity, compelled to retire from the field of active labor), the prayer to the Lord of the harvest "that He would send forth laborers to the harvest," which no doubt has been offered during the past associational year, has not been unheard by the Great Head of the Church. From information obtained from many sources, the Board feel encouraged to hope and believe that there are quite a number of brethren within our bounds who are, more or less, impressed with the duty of consecrating themselves to the Ministry, and that it is clearly the duty of the Churches to afford them such facilities as their circumstances may require to qualify themselves, that they may become "workman that need not be ashamed." Therefore, to carry out the above objects, we would recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, 1st. That this whole subject be entrusted to the Board of Managers, under the following instructions,

viz: To receive and assist, so far as the means in their hands may enable them, such as shall 1st, Present a license from their respective Churches. 2d. A recommendation from a neighboring Church approving thereof.—3d. As shall give satisfactory evidence to the Board of their Christian character and call to the Ministry.

*Resolved*, 2d That an opportunity be now offered to the Churches, Brethren, and others friendly to the cause of Ministerial education, to give pledges for the above named objects. Which pledges shall be liable only to assessment pro rata, as the exigences of the Board may from time to time require. And they be further authorized to make such appeals for further assistance as they may judge expedient. C. W. HARE, President.

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## REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—(B.)

Your Committee is pained to say, that as a denomination, we are slack in our duty, and behind the age in which we live in the religious instruction of our children. Too much stress cannot be laid on the fact that the Sabbath School is the nursery of the Church. It is there that intimate connection between the facts of revelation and the duties which flow from them, for the narrative portions of Scripture can be made the vehicle for imparting a knowledge of those doctrines which underlie the Christian system. Unlike pulpit teaching, the child is addressed in his own language and is thus enabled to understand what otherwise would be inexplicable. Baptists are a peculiar people, having many distinctive marks to distinguish them from other professing Christians. If we regard these differences as Scriptural and essential, should we not sedulously impart our belief to our children? Your Committee would suggest the propriety of each Church having a Sabbath School in which the doctrines of of our Church are plainly taught. Let Baptist books be used. Can there be any reasonable objection to this? Are we right? Then let us instruct our children in the right way. It may be said, "that is not charitable towards others;" but there should be no compromise with error. If Baptism by immersion is the only Scriptural mode, then teach the children so. If the doctrine of election is of God, let it be unfolded that they may accept of the terms of the Gospel. In all ages the doctrines which

we believe, have been derided, and yet the professors of them have, from age to age, been the conservators of a Scriptural Christianity, and the valiant defenders of liberty of conscience. Shall we fail of our duty? Shall we suffer our children to wander into the path of error for want of Scriptural instruction? No! let every Baptist Church have its School in which shall be taught all the doctrines and teachings of the Bible as received and understood by us. JOHN WILMER, Chairman.

## REPORT ON MINISTERIAL AND DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.—(C.)

Your Committee report that while we view this subject as of the highest importance as Baptists and Christians, yet we are unable to present to your body anything of interest, more than has been reported previously. We are pleased to say that within our bounds there is no controversy on this subject. All admit its great importance—all feel its pressing necessity. Your Committee believe that all our brethren require in this matter, is an opportunity. Let one or more young brethren, of acknowledged piety and zeal, present themselves as beneficiaries of this Association, and your Committee would almost guarantee they would be gladly, cheerfully, and liberally aided, indeed we know of no object at present, which would more quickly and thoroughly arouse the liberality of our brethren than one of this kind. Our brethren feel its importance. The condition of our Association admonishes us that something must be done, and that speedily, or we will soon have none to "break to us the Bread of Life." Many of our good old Ministers are passing away, their labors are well nigh over, and who are to fill their places? And what are we doing, as a body, in helping others to prepare and qualify themselves for this great work? Brethren, these questions should sink deep into our hearts and stir us up to watchfulness and prayer.—We hope and trust some measures may be adopted by your body at its present session, which will arouse the Churches to pray the Lord of the harvest that he would send more laborers into his vineyard.

J. E. GULLETT, Chairman.

## REPORT ON THE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF THE BLACKS.—(D.)

We would respectfully offer the following resolution: In order that they may be taught the necessity of wholesome discipline, that in such cases as may be judged expedient, they be organized into separate bodies, if possible, under the supervision of the Church with whom they may have been connected.

J. R. HAWTHORN, Chairman.

## REPORT ON THE STATE OF RELIGION AND DIGEST OF LETTERS.—(E.)

Your Committee beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the Letters and they find 21 Churches represented; 272 received by Baptism; 60 received by Letter; 12 restored; 68 excluded; 72 dismissed; showing a net gain of 177, and five Churches not represented. We rejoice that peace and harmony prevail in the Churches. Brethren, let us thank God and take courage and persevere in the good work of our master.

J. T. BAYLES, Chairman.

## REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY.—(F.)

To the Pine Barren Baptist Association—Beloved Brethren: At the last annual session of your body, I was chosen your Missionary to travel and labor in your bounds, therefore it is proper for me to make a report of my labors, and the success attending the great work assigned me. I commenced my labors on Friday after the adournment of your last session, and continued to give my whole time until the 29th of December; during which time I was enabled to close up the unfinished work left over from the previous year's labors, making arrangements whereby I might be enabled to extend my labors into fields of greater destitution, hoping thereby to accomplish more good than could otherwise be effected in Chu-ches that were less destitute. But my health failed upon the date above designated, and I was unable to enter upon my work until the 1st of April. Since then I have given my whole time, as my health would admit, until your present session, relying upon the precious promise that my labor in the Lord would not be in vain; but would accomplish that whereunto he had sent it. And now, brethren, as to the success attending the effort put forth in His great name,

I have great reason to thank God they have not been fruitless. At the Church at County Line I advised, and by the aid of ministering brethren, ordained 3 ministers; 2 Deacons; Baptised 66; Licensed 3; Restored 3—all colored. At Gilgal—Ordained 1 minister and 2 Deacons Baptised 2; Received by Letter 1; Restored 1—all white. At Manningham—Baptised 1—white. Ebenezer—Baptised 6; Received by Letter 1; Restored 1—all whites; Ordained 1 Deacon. At Bethlehem—Baptised 17; Restored 3; Received by Letter 2; Ordained 2 Deacons—all whites. Accessions to the Churches, whites 44; blacks 69, Total 113. I have succeeded in settling the difficulty which has long severed the Church at County Line, and it stands united and organized, and a self-sustaining Church, with a membership of four hundred and forty or fifty, as near as we can arrive at. Gilgal, Manningham, Ebenezer, and Bethlehem stand as organized and self-sustaining Churches. For further particulars relative to these facts and as to the number of their membership, and of having the Gospel preached to them, I refer you to the statistical accounts given in their Letters of Correspondence to your body. Notwithstanding these happy results of the advancement of Christ's cause in our midst, doubtless arising from the blessing of God attending the effort put forth on your part to sustain Missionary labor in your bounds, there is yet destitution that demands your attention and aid. While precious souls are perishing for the word of Eternal Life, let us not faint or grow weary in well-doing.

J. CAPERS JONES, Missionary.

# FINANCE REPORT.—(G.)

| CHURCHES. | MINUTES FUND. | HOME MISSION. Paid | Unpaid |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Providence, | $2 70 | $..... | $..... |
| Gravel Creek,.. | 1 25 | ..... | ..... |
| Rock West,.... | 5 00 | 50 00 | ..... |
| Bethany,..... | 1 75 | 11 50 | 8 50 |
| Camden..... | 1 50 | ..... | ..... |
| Ackerville ..... | 5 00 | 50 00 | ..... |
| Bethsaida..... | 5 00 | 40 00 | ..... |
| Bear Creek..... | 1 50 | ..... | ..... |
| Enon..... .... | 3 05 | ..... | 30 00 |
| Union*..... | .... | 5 00 | ..... |
| Gilgal..... | 2 00 | 8 25 | ..... |
| Fellowship† ... | 2 00 | 7 00 | ..... |
| Friendship .... | 4 00 | 27 85 | 7 75 |
| Bethlehem ..... | 1 45 | 6 45 | ..... |
| Manningham.... | 2 75 | ..... | ..... |
| Ebenezer ..... | 3 00 | 23 10 | 1 90 |
| Indian Springs‡ | 1 55 | 5 00 | ..... |
| Flat Creek§.... | .... | 10 00 | ..... |
| Pineville‖..... | 5 00 | 20 00 | ..... |
| New Hope..... | 2 00 | ..... | ..... |
| Concord..... | 4 00 | 15 25 | 14 75 |
| Bethel**..... | 1 75 | 5 00 | ..... |
| Bell's Landing.. | .... | 5 00 | 10 00 |
| PublicCollection | .... | 18 25 | ..... |
| Mount Pleasant | 2 00 | ..... | ..... |
| W Wiggins.... | .... | ..... | 5 00 |
| S Garner..... | .... | ..... | 5 00 |
| S Byrd..... | .... | ..... | 5 00 |
| | 58 25 | 307 65 | 87 90 |

J. B. SCOTT.
J. H. PEURIFOY,
W. M. WATSON,
Committee.

☞*Paid by M. L. M'Williams. †Paid by J. B. Scott. ‡Paid by Wm. Fort.—§Paid by J. B. Cotton. ‖Paid J. M. & H. Davidson, D. Robbins and J. B Colly.—** Paid for D. Mason